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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In the context of its activities for the promotion and protection of human rights, the United Nations pays special attention to the elimination of torture, which is strictly prohibited by a large number of rules of international law and is not to be tolerated under any circumstances, even during states of emergency or armed conflict. Torture is one of the most serious violations of the physical integrity of the human person, since it may lead to physical and mental consequences which can last for several years or even be irreversible.

2. Despite the various measures taken by the United Nations to encourage the implementation of rules for protection against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, torture continues to be used in many countries. In order to assist the victims of torture, the General Assembly, by resolution 36/151 of 16 December 1981, created the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. It did this by redefining the mandate of the United Nations Trust Fund for Chile, which had been established by General Assembly resolution 33/174 of 20 December 1978, to encompass all victims of torture anywhere in the world.

3. In accordance with arrangements adopted by the General Assembly in 1981 in resolution 36/151 (see A/36/540, annex), the Secretary-General reports to the General Assembly on an annual basis on the management of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, indicating funds available, pledges and contributions received as well as disbursements from the Fund. This report has been prepared in accordance with the above-mentioned arrangements.

II. PRESENTATION OF THE FUND

4. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 36/151, voluntary contributions to the Fund from Governments, non-governmental organizations and private individuals are to be distributed through established channels of assistance, as humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of torture and to relatives of such victims. Thus, the Fund provides financing to humanitarian organizations which submit projects involving medical, psychological, social or legal assistance to the victims of torture and their relatives.

5. The Fund is managed by the United Nations Secretariat, and more specifically by the Centre for Human Rights in Geneva. It is administered, in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the United Nations, by the Secretary-General, assisted by a Board of Trustees composed of five members who possess wide experience in the field of human rights, serve in a personal capacity and are appointed by the Secretary-General for a renewable three-year term of office on the basis of equitable geographical distribution and in consultation with their Governments.

6. The Board of Trustees is composed of Mr. Jaap Walkate, Chairman (Netherlands), Mrs. Elisabeth Odio Benito (Costa Rica), Mr. Ivan Tosevski (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), and Mr. Amos Wako (Kenya). It holds an

annual session, in the spring, when for a week it gives careful consideration to the large number of projects received. It makes recommendations to the Secretary-General on projects which it considers relevant and in keeping with the Fund's mandate.

III. THE FUND'S FINANCIAL SOURCES

7. The Fund receives contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations and private individuals. In order to respond to requests for financing for assistance to victims of torture, contributions must be paid before May, when the Board meeting is held. Any contribution made after the meeting is carried over to the following year.

A. Government contributions

8. Government pledges to the Fund are made either directly to the secretariat, or at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities held in New York or, less frequently, at the annual session of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

9. The following pledges were outstanding as at 15 September 1995:

Brazil $10,000 for 1995
Germany $61,908 for 1995

10. The number of Governments contributing to the Fund rose from 5 in 1982 to 30 in 1994. In 1995, the number of government contributions decreased, since five regular donor States did not provide any support to the Fund (see table 1).

Table 1. Trend in the number of States contributing to the Fund

(United States dollars)

Year	Donor States	Amount of contribution
1982	5	410 100
1983	8	361 846
1984	18	497 900
1985	13	515 859
1986	21	814 091
1987	19	783 602
1988	24	974 485
1989	20	735 679
1990	14	749 923
1991	20	1 096 449
1992	16	1 204 339
1993	27	1 926 198
1994	30	3 112 541
1995	25	2 829 629

11. Subsequent to the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session (A/49/484), 29 Governments made voluntary contributions to the Fund between 13 September 1994 and 15 September 1995 (see table 2).

Table 2. Government contributions from 13 September 1994 to 15 September 1995

Government	Contribution (United States dollars)	Year	Contribution No.
Algeria	5 000.00	1994	1
	5 000.00	1995	2
Andorra	1 000.00	1995	1
Argentina	2 985.00	1995	5
Austria	20 000.00	1995	11
Belgium	92 148.68	1994	5
	104 420.47	1995	6
Canada	17 094.00	1995	12
Chile	3 000.00	1995	3
Cyprus	500.00	1995	7
Czech Republic	5 000.00	1995	2
Denmark	184 535.89	1995	13
France	18 587.37	1994	16
	102 040.82	1995	17
Germany a/	58 897.00	1995	13
Greece	10 000.00	1995	13
Iceland	5 633.80	1995	10
Israel	20 000.00	1994	1
Japan	100 000.00	1994	9
Luxembourg	3 131.61	1994	11
	5 330.00	1995	12
Monaco	16 778.00	1995	2
Morocco	1 500.00	1995	1
Netherlands	113 787.88	1994	13
New Zealand	19 890.00	1995	10
Norway	81 351.00	1995	10
Portugal	10 000.00	1995	1
Spain	54 660.59	1995	10
Sweden	475 367.00	1995	9
Switzerland	24 409.45	1995	8
Tunisia	1 489.57	1994	5
United Kingdom	47 620.00	1995	6
United States of America b/	1 000 000.00	1994	10
	1 500 000.00	1995	11

(Footnotes to table on following page)

(Footnotes to table 2)

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a/ Germany has partially paid off its pledge of $120,805.

b/ The United States has paid the remainder of its 1994 contribution, in the amount of $1.5 million.

Note:

For the second consecutive year, the United States of America has made a contribution of $1.5 million. This represents 15 times more than its contribution for 1992.

As in the previous year, Belgium's contribution was eight times larger than its contribution for 1988.

Algeria, Andorra, Israel and Portugal contributed to the Fund for the first time.

The Czech Republic and Monaco contributed to the Fund for the second time.

Austria, Cyprus, Germany, Japan, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland contribute to the Fund regularly. Denmark, France, Greece, Iceland, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Sweden and Spain, all regular contributors, significantly increased their support.

As at 15 September 1995, a significant decrease was noted in the number of States contributing regularly to the Fund's financial activities. There were 20 donor States in 1994, compared with 15 in 1995; this corresponded to a decrease in contributions of about $1 million.

B. Contributions from non-governmental organizations and private individuals

12. Some organizations have contributed to the Fund since its inception. Since 13 September 1994 the Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers) has provided a grant of $517.

13. Mention should be made of the donation by the Sharp Corporation of Geneva in May 1995 of the use of high-speed copiers, which in a few hours produced 15,000 photocopies needed to provide sets of documents for the members of the Board of Trustees at the fourteenth session; this saved the Fund secretariat three days of work during a very busy period and was equivalent to a voluntary contribution of about Sw F 2,000.

14. The following individual contributions were received: US$ 105.64 from Mrs. North (Canada), $231.50 from Mr. Girardot (France) and $500 from Mr. Prémont (France).

IV. ASSISTED PROJECTS

A. Selection criteria

15. Projects to be financed from the Fund must meet the criteria recommended over the years by the Board of Trustees and approved by the Secretary-General. The project selection criteria relate to various objectives:

(a) Medical and psychological assistance (including psychiatric and psychotherapeutic treatment);

(b) Social, economic or legal assistance (help with social rehabilitation);

(c) Training of health-care professionals; and

(d) Organization of seminars and lectures on the subject of torture.

16. Grant applications may come from non-governmental organizations or directly from a victim. Non-governmental organizations involved in humanitarian activities generally are connected with rehabilitation centres located either in the victim's country of origin or in the receiving country.

B. Submission of projects

17. The organization requesting Fund support must provide detailed information on the assistance it will provide to torture victims and their relatives and must attach a project description form (see A/49/484, annex VIII) to its funding request files indicating, inter alia, the type of assistance offered; the number and nationalities of the identified victims; the type of torture suffered, its effects on the victims and the circumstances in which it occurred; the composition of the project staff and their experience assisting torture victims;

the expected duration of the project and its various stages; and a detailed budget indicating the overall cost of the project and the amount requested from the Fund, which will cover only one third of the total amount.

18. Projects will be treated as strictly confidential if the organization so wishes. Non-governmental organizations receiving Fund support which have authorized the secretariat to reveal their names, the type of assistance they provide and their geographical distribution are listed in an annex to this report (annex II). There were 114 such organizations in 1995.

19. Torture victims requesting direct assistance from the Fund are required to compile a detailed medical file certified by the attending physician. The secretariat may seek the advice of health professionals of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on a case-by-case basis. The file is then transmitted to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, which, after due consideration, may decide to offer a grant.

C. Role of the Fund secretariat and the Board of Trustees

20. The Fund secretariat is responsible for the administrative and financial management of projects throughout the year. It assists organizations with project development; deals in English, French and Spanish with the persons in charge of projects and ensures project follow-up from inception to implementation. The secretariat also prepares narrative and financial reports on the grants awarded and ensures that such grants are in conformity with the Fund's guidelines. It also provides the Board of Trustees, at its annual meeting, with a brief summary of each project submitted. In addition, the secretariat deals with all financial matters of the Fund and carries out the recommendations of the Board of Trustees regarding the award of grants.

21. At its annual meeting, the Board of Trustees reviews all the projects receiving assistance which are still under way, as well as all new grant applications. It may suspend payment of all or part of a grant until satisfactory narrative and financial reports are received by the secretariat, which may consult the Chairman of the Board between sessions, or all members of the Board if necessary.

22. In addition, rapid intervention is sometimes necessary to finance urgent medical treatment or to assist an organization known to the Fund that is in danger of having to terminate its activities; in such cases, the Board of Trustees may decide to recommend an emergency grant of up to US$ 10,000 in each case. An amount of US$ 100,000 has been earmarked for an emergency fund to be used for such grants.

D. Types of projects submitted to the Fund

23. Since the inception of the Fund, the practice of the Board of Trustees has been to recommend to the Secretary-General that grants should be awarded to the following types of projects: psychological and medical assistance, economic and social rehabilitation, training of health-care professionals, assistance with

the establishment of treatment centres, meetings of experts, assistance to direct and indirect child victims of torture, assistance with the publication of works and legal assistance.

24. The bulk of grants goes to projects for the treatment of torture victims, particularly medical, psychological and social treatment.

25. Psychological treatment is essential, as some of the serious consequences of torture are of a psychological nature, such as depression, chronic anxiety, paranoia and a feeling of deep humiliation, in some cases to the point of suicide. Psychological assistance is also extended to the relatives of torture victims, who suffer indirect effects.

26. Medical treatment is designed to deal with physical injuries and requires highly specialized care. Some programmes involve centres offering such treatment to victims, others are for referral centres where victims are received, listened to and examined, and then referred to medical specialists.

27. These treatments take the form of individual, family or group therapy and rehabilitation programmes. Each treatment programme is tailored to the local situation and to the needs of the victims and their families; they are based on a comprehensive approach dealing with all the problems resulting from torture (medical, psychological, social and economic problems), and taking account of the family, social and occupational environment of the individual concerned. The victim first undergoes a thorough examination to determine his exact needs and is then directed, as far as possible, to the appropriate services. If those services are inadequate, efforts are made to provide the victim and his family with medical treatment, physiotherapy, psychiatric and psychological treatment and social and economic assistance.

28. A new trend has emerged in the policy of the Board of Trustees since 1994. The Board is now encouraging legal assistance projects designed to defend the right of torture victims to restitution, indemnification and rehabilitation before national courts. Such official acknowledgment of the torture suffered is an essential stage in the psychological rehabilitation of victims.

E. Number and geographical distribution of projects

29. From the establishment of the Fund until 15 September 1995, 252 files were started by the Fund secretariat. One organization may submit several projects which may give rise to a number of subprojects. Some projects received may fall outside the purview of the Fund, fail to meet all the criteria, be abandoned by their sponsors, become impracticable because of armed conflict, or be rejected because the secretariat and the Board of Trustees believe that the organization fails to provide guarantees of proper project implementation. In addition, each year, about a dozen projects are held in abeyance pending the receipt of further information.

30. In 1995 the Board was called upon to handle an unprecedented number of projects involving requests primarily from African, Eastern European and Asian organizations (see table 3).

Table 3. Geographical distribution of projects and organizations awarded grants in 1995

Region	Number of projects	Number of organizations
Africa	19	15
North America	11	11
South America and the Caribbean	18	18
Asia and the Middle East	19	18
Europe	37	31
Total	104	93

F. Close collaboration with United Nations bodies

31. Collaboration with United Nations bodies in the field, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), already effective in the past when the Fund secretariat sought additional information about a given project, has been even stronger in 1995. UNDP has been directly involved in the implementation of some projects, with the agreement of the managers, and a policy of coordination with UNHCR in the provision of assistance to refugee torture victims is gradually being established. This kind of cooperation is receiving increasing encouragement from the Board of Trustees, which at its last session recommended collaboration in the field with a United Nations body for more than 15 projects.

G. Fourteenth session of the Board of Trustees

32. The Board of Trustees held its fourteenth session in Geneva from 15 to 24 May 1995. A press release on the Board's recommendations is annexed to this report (annex III).

1. Funds available

33. In accordance with the rules governing the Voluntary Fund, 15 per cent of estimated annual expenditures must be earmarked as a reserve for the following year, and 13 per cent is the rate set for programme support costs.

34. Thus, after these amounts are deducted, the total amount available to the Board of Trustees in May 1995 for grants to projects to assist victims of torture came to $2.7 million, or $1 million less than in 1994.

2. Amount of requests for funding

35. The number of requests for funding to assist victims of torture grows each year. In 1995, they came to more than $6 million for 112 projects or subprojects, among them 28 new applications from humanitarian organizations and 5 from victims themselves.

3. Recommendations of the Board of Trustees

36. The Secretary-General approved the Board's recommendations regarding grants to 104 projects submitted by 93 humanitarian organizations (see annex I). In the course of the session, the Board of Administration heard 11 representatives of organizations carrying out 37 different projects. Despite the financial crisis which the Fund is experiencing in 1995, the Board made an effort to honour about 40 per cent of each request for funding which met the selection criteria established by the Board.

37. The Board of Trustees recommended that its Chairman should visit the Medical Foundation of London to meet its directors and, with them, organize a meeting with the various organizations receiving grants from the Fund that are based in the United Kingdom.

38. Furthermore, the Board of Trustees urges closer cooperation between the Fund and specialized agencies, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Accordingly, the Board met the director of the UNHCR Mental Health Service to discuss more extensive and more coherent joint action, and information was exchanged on each other's methods of work. The purpose of this collaboration is to develop common strategy for assisting victims of torture and violence.

39. Lastly, given the growing number of applications to review during the session and the lack of time for full treatment of substantive questions and fund-raising issues, the Secretary-General draws the attention of the General Assembly to the Board's recommendation that a 10-day extension of the session should be approved.

V. FUND-RAISING

A. Resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights

40. By resolution 36/151 the General Assembly authorized the Board of Trustees of the Fund to promote and solicit contributions and pledges. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to give the Board of Trustees all the assistance it might require and appealed to all Governments to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund.

41. In keeping with the programme of work it outlined in decision 48/431 of 20 December 1993, the General Assembly adopts resolutions concerning the Fund

only in even years. Resolution 49/176 of 23 December 1994 is the last one it adopted on the matter. The Assembly, in this resolution, and the Commission on Human Rights, in resolution 1995/37 of 3 March 1995, appealed to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund, if possible on a regular basis and annually before the session of the Board of Trustees of the Fund.

42. Furthermore, in paragraph 16 of resolution 1995/37, the Commission on Human Rights calls upon the Board of Trustees to report to it at its fifty-second session on the increasing need for overall rehabilitation services for torture victims.

B. Letters to States

43. The Board of Trustees was very much in favour of the proposal by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights that letters should be written once again in 1995 to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of States that have never contributed to the Fund, inviting them to do so, and to contributing States encouraging them to increase their contributions.

44. The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights sent a letter at the beginning of the year to the Governments which had made pledges, expressing the hope that they would make good on them before the session of the Board of Trustees. Some countries, such as Spain, Luxembourg and Monaco, had responded positively to this invitation.

C. Action by non-governmental organizations

45. Some organizations are bringing information on the activities of the Fund to the attention of their Governments. The United States organization Center for Victims of Torture, based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, is lobbying the United States Government extensively. For instance, it addressed a letter to the United States Congress asking, inter alia, that the Government's contribution to the Fund should be maintained at $1.5 million for 1996.

Annex I

CONTRIBUTIONS AND PLEDGES BY GOVERNMENTS
(from February 1982 to 15 September 1995)

State	Contribution No.	Currency	Amount	Date pledged/paid	Contribution year	Equivalent in local currency	
Algeria	1	US$	5 000.00	(30.12.1994)	(for 1994)		
	2	US$	5 000.00	(14.12.1994)	(for 1995)		
Andorra	1	US$	1 000.00	(10.2.1995)	(for 1995)	Ptas	130 000
Argentina	1	US$	5 000.00	(6.7.1988)	(for 1988)		
	2	US$	4 000.00	(13.2.1989)	(for 1989)		
	3	US$	4 000.00	(15.11.1991)	(for 1990)		
	4	US$	2 996.00	(15.11.1991)	(for 1991)		
	5	US$	2 985.00	(25.4.1995)	(for 1995)		
Australia	1	US$	12 816.00	(18.12.1984)	(for 1984)	$A	15 000
	2	US$	3 573.00	(17.2.1988)	(for 1988)		
	3	US$	6 212.30	(30.11.1993)	(for 1993)		
	4	US$	3 592.00	(18.5.1994)	(for 1994)		
Austria	1	US$	5 000.00	(19.12.1985)	(for 1985)		
	2	US$	5 000.00	(16.10.1986)	(for 1986)		
	3	US$	5 000.00	(15.10.1987)	(for 1987)		
	4	US$	5 000.00	(9.3.1988)	(for 1988)		
	5	US$	5 000.00	(21.2.1989)	(for 1989)		
	6	US$	5 000.00	(22.2.1990)	(for 1990)		
	7	US$	6 000.00	(21.10.1991)	(for 1991)		
	8	US$	10 000.00	(19.10.1992)	(for 1992)		
	9	US$	10 000.00	(28.10.1993)	(for 1993)		
	10	US$	20 000.00	(24.5.1994)	(for 1994)		

State	Contribution No.	Currency	Amount	Date pledged/paid	Contribution year	Equivalent in local currency	
Austria (continued)	11	US$	20 000.00	(25.5.1995)	(for 1995)		
Belgium	1	US$	10 000.00	(21.2.1985)	(for 1984)		
	2	US$	10 000.00	(2.2.1987)	(for 1986)		
	3	US$	10 000.00	(30.3.1988)	(for 1987)		
	4	US$	83 844.78	(23.12.1993)	(for 1993)	BF	3 000 000
	5	US$	92 148.68	(30.12.1994)	(for 1994)		3 000 000
	6	US$	104 420.47	(27.7.1995)	(for 1995)		3 000 000
Bhutan	1	US$	1 000.00	(18.1.1994)	(for 1993)		
Brazil	1	US$	5 000.00	(17.6.1985)	(for 1985)		
	2	US$	5 000.00	(21.11.1986)	(for 1986)		
	3	US$	5 000.00	(1.8.1988)	(for 1988)		
	4	US$	5 000.00	(26.4.1993)	(for 1992)		
	5	US$	10 000.00 a/	(20.12.1994)	(for 1995)		
Cameroon	1	US$	1 113.77	(9.8.1984)	(for 1984)		
	2	US$	1 344.90	(15.4.1986)	(for 1986)		
	3	US$	1 227.21	(29.9.1989)	(for 1989)		
Canada	1	US$	7 932.00	(23.11.1983)	(for 1983)	Can$	10 000
	2	US$	7 633.59	(12.12.1984)	(for 1984)		10 000
	3	US$	36 496.35	(15.4.1985)	(for 1985)		50 000
	4	US$	7 103.00	(25.2.1986)	(for 1986)		10 000
	5	US$	7 692.00	(14.4.1987)	(for 1987)		10 000
	6	US$	24 390.00	(15.4.1988)	(for 1988)		30 000
	7	US$	25 200.62	(30.3.1989)	(for 1989)		
	8	US$	25 031.73	(8.3.1990)	(for 1990)		
	9	US$	26 652.41	(20.11.1991)	(for 1991)		

State	Contribution No.	Currency	Amount	Date pledged/paid	Contribution year	Equivalent in local currency	
Canada (continued)	10	US$	24 939.73	(8.6.1992)	(for 1992)		
	11	US$	19 668.55	(30.3.1994)	(for 1994)		
	12	US$	17 094.00	(13.1.1995)	(for 1995)		
Chile	1	US$	2 000.00	(16.2.1993)	(for 1991)		
	2	US$	2 000.00	(11.5.1994)	(for 1994)		
	3	US$	3 000.00	(15.5.1995)	(for 1995)		
Costa Rica	1	US$	10 000.00	(5.1994)	(for 1993)		
Cyprus	1	US$	500.00	(19.8.1982)	(for 1982)		
	2	US$	200.00	(29.9.1983)	(for 1983)		
	3	US$	250.00	(11.4.1984)	(for 1984)		
	4	US$	300.00	(23.12.1986)	(for 1986)		
	5	US$	500.00	(23.12.1992)	(for 1992)		
	6	US$	500.00	(23.12.1993)	(for 1993)		
	7	US$	500.00	(12.12.1994)	(for 1995)		
Czech Republic	1	US$	2 500.00	(31.1.1994)	(for 1994)		
	2	US$	5 000.00	(4.4.1995)	(for 1995)		
Denmark	1	US$	114 600.05	(27.9.1982)	(for 1982)		
	2	US$	104 783.36	(5.4.1984)	(for 1984)		
	3	US$	93 187.96	(25.4.1985)	(for 1985)	DKr	1 000 000
	4	US$	120 402.14	(21.3.1986)	(for 1986)		1 000 000
	5	US$	155 050.78	(4.3.1988)	(for 1987)		
	6	US$	139 489.47	(30.8.1988)	(for 1988)		1 000 000
	7	US$	127 534.75	(30.5.1989)	(for 1989)		
	8	US$	173 430.45	(31.10.1990)	(for 1990)		
	9	US$	152 068.13	(30.10.1991)	(for 1991)		

State	Contribution No.	Currency	Amount	Date pledged/paid	Contribution year	Equivalent in local currency	
Denmark (continued)	10	US$	168 661.73	(29.10.1992)	(for 1992)		
	11	US$	152 493.77	(13.7.1993)	(for 1993)		
	12	US$	151 347.41	(10.6.1994)	(for 1994)		
	13	US$	184 535.89	(10.4.1995)	(for 1995)		
Finland	1	US$	81 729.02	(5.1.1983)	(for 1982)	Fmk	450 000
	2	US$	52 576.24	(22.9.1983)	(for 1983)		
	3	US$	75 936.55	(26.6.1984)	(for 1984)		
	4	US$	87 596.36	(11.10.1985)	(for 1985)		
	5	US$	104 304.95	(9.6.1986)	(for 1986)		550 000
	6	US$	134 048.26	(1.4.1987)	(for 1987)		600 000
	7	US$	154 922.54	(19.1.1988)	(for 1988)		
	8	US$	153 773.36	(14.4.1989)	(for 1989)		
	9	US$	171 198.39	(25.4.1990)	(for 1990)		680 000
	10	US$	174 640.70	(7.5.1991)	(for 1991)		700 000
	11	US$	180 230.13	(6.7.1992)	(for 1992)		
	12	US$	170 863.71	(14.4.1993)	(for 1993)		
	13	US$	182 017.14	(27.4.1994)	(for 1994)		
France	1	US$	19 480.52	(24.6.1983)	(for 1983)	F	150 000
	2	US$	20 496.89	(12.4.1984)	(for 1984)		165 000
	3	US$	26 315.78	(8.5.1985)	(for 1985)		
	4	US$	37 593.98	(7.10.1986)	(for 1986)		
	5	US$	40 650.40	(27.8.1987)	(for 1987)		
	6	US$	18 518.52	(1.2.1988)	(for 1987)		100 000
	7	US$	76 271.18	(9.1.1989)	(for 1988)		
	8	US$	32 154.00	(15.3.1989)	(for 1989)		200 000

State	Contribution No.	Currency	Amount	Date pledged/paid	Contribution year	Equivalent in local currency	
France (continued)	9	US$	43 478.26	(8.1.1990)	(for 1989)		
	10	US$	47 619.04	(3.10.1990)	(for 1990)		
	11	US$	55 555.55	(24.12.1991)	(for 1991)		
	12	US$	56 603.77	(20.7.1992)	(for 1992)		300 000
	13	US$	88 495.57	(2.4.1993)	(for 1993)		
	14	US$	86 956.52	(24.3.1994)	(for 1994)		
	15	US$	17 139.86	(8.4.1994)	(for 1994)		
	16	US$	18 587.37	(27.9.1994)	(for 1994)		
	17	US$	102 040.82	(7.7.95)	(for 1995)		
Germany	1	US$	54 106.70	(27.12.1983)	(for 1983)	DM	150 000
	2	US$	64 277.68	(14.12.1984)	(for 1984)		200 000
	3	US$	79 032.64	(9.12.1985)	(for 1985)		200 000
	4	US$	99 216.19	(22.12.1986)	(for 1986)		200 000
	5	US$	119 688.81	(10.12.1987)	(for 1987)		200 000
	6	US$	114 943.00	(19.12.1988)	(for 1988)		200 000
	7	US$	112 549.24	(7.12.1989)	(for 1989)		200 000
	8	US$	135 749.68	(14.12.1990)	(for 1990)		200 000
	9	US$	126 103.40	(29.11.1991)	(for 1991)		200 000
	10	US$	126 223.00	(24.11.1992)	(for 1992)		200 000
	11	US$	113 450.29	(1.12.1993)	(for 1993)		194 000
	12	US$	119 760.48	(5.5.1994)	(for 1994)		200 000
	13	US$	120 805.37 b/	(2.11.1994)	(for 1995)		180 000
		US$	39 361.00	(18.5.1995)	(for 1995)		
		US$	19 536.00	(6.6.1995)	(for 1995)		
Greece	1	US$	5 000.00	(4.10.1983)	(for 1983)		

State	Contribution No.	Currency	Amount	Date pledged/paid	Contribution year	Equivalent in local currency
Greece (continued)	2	US$	5 000.00	(11.12.1984)	(for 1984)	
	3	US$	5 000.00	(5.5.1985)	(for 1985)	
	4	US$	5 000.00	(30.6.1986)	(for 1986)	
	5	US$	5 000.00	(21.4.1987)	(for 1987)	
	6	US$	5 000.00	(12.4.1988)	(for 1988)	
	7	US$	5 000.00	(10.3.1989)	(for 1989)	
	8	US$	5 000.00	(14.11.1990)	(for 1990)	
	9	US$	5 000.00	(16.4.1993)	(for 1991)	
	10	US$	5 000.00	(16.4.1993)	(for 1992)	
	11	US$	10 000.00	(17.5.1994)	(for 1994)	
	12	US$	10 000.00	(12.4.1995)	(for 1995)	
Haiti	1	US$	186.00	(5.1.1989)	(for 1989)	
Holy See	1	US$	1 000.00	(22.4.1988)	(for 1988)	
Hungary	1	US$	500.00	(31.12.1993)	(for 1993)	
	2	US$	500.00	(2.6.1994)	(for 1994)	
Iceland	1	US$	2 000.00	(2.12.1986)	(for 1986)	
	2	US$	2 000.00	(2.12.1987)	(for 1987)	
	3	US$	2 000.00	(11.5.1989)	(for 1988)	
	4	US$	2 300.00	(8.3.1990)	(for 1989)	
	5	US$	2 410.00	(31.1.1991)	(for 1990)	
	6	US$	4 267.00	(28.1.1992)	(for 1991)	
	7	US$	5 350.00	(28.8.1992)	(for 1992)	
	8	US$	5 617.00	(30.12.1993)	(for 1993)	
	9	US$	3 491.13	(18.5.1994)	(for 1994)	
	10	US$	5 633.80	(18.5.1995)	(for 1995)	

State	Contribution No.	Currency	Amount	Date pledged/paid	Contribution year	Equivalent in local currency
Indonesia	1	US$	1 985.87	(20.7.1988)	(for 1988)	
	2	US$	5 000.00	(20.4.1993)	(for 1993)	
Ireland	1	US$	5 690.00	(30.4.1984)	(for 1984)	
	2	US$	7 080.50	(18.4.1985)	(for 1985)	
	3	US$	10 872.00	(21.4.1986)	(for 1986)	
	4	US$	8 940.00	(16.6.1987)	(for 1987)	
	5	US$	3 207.00	(13.1.1988)	(for 1988)	
	6	US$	2 858.00	(8.2.1989)	(for 1989)	
	7	US$	3 572.40	(14.5.1991)	(for 1991)	
	8	US$	5 815.25	(4.2.1992)	(for 1992)	
	9	US$	14 805.00	(7.4.1993)	(for 1993)	
	10	US$	30 080.00	(26.7.1994)	(for 1994)	
Israel	1	US$	20 000.00	(23.11.1994)	(for 1994)	
Italy	1	US$	100 000.00	(16.6.1987)	(for 1987)	
	2	US$	30 000.00	(23.5.1991)	(for 1990)	
	3	US$	30 000.00	(16.1.1992)	(for 1991)	
	4	US$	30 000.00	(23.12.1992)	(for 1992)	
	5	US$	30 000.00	(2.8.1992)	(for 1993)	
Japan	1	US$	50 000.00	(19.8.1986)	(for 1986)	
	2	US$	50 000.00	(23.10.1987)	(for 1987)	
	3	US$	50 000.00	(24.6.1988)	(for 1988)	
	4	US$	50 000.00	(27.12.1989)	(for 1989)	
	5	US$	50 000.00	(30.4.1991)	(for 1990)	
	6	US$	50 000.00	(31.1.1992)	(for 1991)	
	7	US$	100 000.00	(18.2.1993)	(for 1992)	

State	Contribution No.	Currency	Amount	Date pledged/paid	Contribution year	Equivalent in local currency	
Japan (continued)	8	US$	100 000.00	(14.1.1994)	(for 1993)		
	9	US$	100 000.00	(22.2.1995)	(for 1994)		
Jordan	1	US$	1 000.00	(10.2.1984)	(for 1984)		
Kenya	1	US$	400.00	(24.4.1985)	(for 1985)		
	2	US$	500.00	(23.4.1987)	(for 1987)		
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1	US$	5 000.00	(3.8.1988)	(for 1988)		
	2	US$	5 000.00	(5.10.1993)	(for 1993)		
Liechtenstein	1	US$	2 286.00	(5.4.1984)	(for 1984)	Sw F	5 000
	2	US$	2 958.58	(15.8.1986)	(for 1986)		5 000
	3	US$	3 597.00	(8.4.1988)	(for 1988)		5 000
	4	US$	7 901.00	(1.4.1992)	(for 1991)		10 000
	5	US$	6 438.00	(27.5.1993)	(for 1992)		10 000
	6	US$	6 591.00	(10.12.1993)	(for 1993)		10 000
	7	US$	7 029.88	(23.4.1994)	(for 1994)		
Luxembourg	1	US$	2 019.84	(5.4.1983)	(for 1983)		
	2	US$	1 835.03	(17.11.1983)	(for 1983)	LuxF	100 000
	3	US$	900.36	(24.5.1984)	(for 1984)		
	4	US$	1 681.00	(13.8.1984)	(for 1984)		
	5	US$	1 421.80	(9.10.1986)	(for 1986)		60 000
	6	US$	1 102.71	(20.11.1987)	(for 1987)		
	7	US$	2 917.15	(15.5.1990)	(for 1990)		
	8	US$	2 959.42	(19.5.1992)	(for 1991)		
	9	US$	3 017.60	(23.4.1993)	(for 1992)		100 000
	10	US$	2 785.71	(20.12.1993)	(for 1993)		100 000
	11	US$	3 131.61	(27.9.1994)	(for 1994)		

State	Contribution No.	Currency	Amount	Date pledged/paid	Contribution year	Equivalent in local currency	
Luxembourg (continued)	12	US$	5 330.00	(24.4.1995)	(for 1995)		150 000
Malta	1	US$	300.00	(1.3.1989)	(for 1989)		
Mauritius	1	US$	999.31	(21.1.1994)	(for 1994)		
Monaco	1	US$	15 000.00	(6.7.1994)	(for 1994)		
	2	US$	16 778.00	(4.5.1995)	(for 1995)		
Morocco	1	US$	1 500.00	(4.5.1995)	(for 1995)		
Netherlands	1	US$	45 000.00	(6.7.1982)	(for 1982)		
	2	US$	50 000.00	(7.5.1984)	(for 1984)		
	3	US$	14 415.00	(18.4.1985)	(for 1984)	f.	50 000
	4	US$	46 335.00	(4.9.1985)	(for 1985)		150 000
	5	US$	44 799.38	(6.6.1986)	(for 1986)		115 000
	6	US$	121 012.46	(28.11.1986)	(for 1986)		
	7	US$	50 308.14	(22.12.1988)	(for 1988)		
	8	US$	40 521.72	(22.12.1989)	(for 1989)		8 000
	9	US$	26 805.66	(26.12.1990)	(for 1990)		45 000
	10	US$	54 990.69	(12.12.1991)	(for 1991)		100 000
	11	US$	52 631.58	(1.3.1994)	(for 1992)		100 000
	12	US$	103 248.00	(1.3.1994)	(for 1993)		200 000
	13	US$	113 787.88	(30.12.1994)	(for 1994)		200 000
New Zealand	1	US$	13 400.00	(14.2.1986)	(for 1986)	$NZ	25 000
	2	US$	15 610.00	(27.2.1987)	(for 1987)		
	3	US$	20 040.00	(5.2.1988)	(for 1988)		30 000
	4	US$	18 420.00	(17.3.1989)	(for 1989)		
	5	US$	17 685.00	(11.3.1990)	(for 1990)		
	6	US$	17 676.00	(29.5.1991)	(for 1991)		30 000

State	Contribution No.	Currency	Amount	Date pledged/paid	Contribution year	Equivalent in local currency	
New Zealand (continued)	7	US$	27 494.00	(22.5.1992)	(for 1992)		
	8	US$	15 957.00	(25.5.1993)	(for 1993)		
	9	US$	15 579.00	(16.5.1994)	(for 1994)		
	10	US$	19 890.00	(15.5.1995)	(for 1995)		
Norway	1	US$	100 000.00	(2.3.1982)	(for 1982)		
	2	US$	136 967.54	(24.10.1983)	(for 1983)	NKr	1 000 000
	3	US$	5 000.00	(14.11.1986)	(for 1986)		
	4	US$	50 000.00	(12.2.1987)	(for 1987)		
	5	US$	75 000.00	(30.12.1988)	(for 1988)		
	6	US$	99 985.00	(6.5.1991)	(for 1991)		
	7	US$	74 985.00	(31.12.1992)	(for 1992)		
	8	US$	99 973.48	(20.7.1993)	(for 1993)		
	9	US$	95 884.69	(25.5.1994)	(for 1994)		
	10	US$	81 351.00	(16.6.1995)	(for 1995)		
Republic of Korea	1	US$	5 000.00	(29.12.1988)	(for 1988)		
	2	US$	5 000.00	(22.12.1989)	(for 1989)		
San Marino	1	US$	2 117.31	(28.2.1984)	(for 1983)	Lit	3 500 000
	2	US$	2 258.93	(24.8.1984)	(for 1984)		4 000 000
Senegal	1	US$	186.00	(1.1.1987)	(for 1987)		
Spain	1	US$	13 176.09	(25.4.1986)	(for 1986)	Ptas	2 000 000
	2	US$	19 196.65	(7.4.1987)	(for 1987)		
	3	US$	22 304.50	(31.3.1988)	(for 1988)		
	4	US$	34 884.88	(13.3.1989)	(for 1989)		
	5	US$	36 730.27	(14.3.1990)	(for 1990)		
	6	US$	34 798.64	(22.8.1991)	(for 1991)		

State	Contribution No.	Currency	Amount	Date pledged/paid	Contribution year	Equivalent in local currency	
Spain (continued)	7	US$	67 187.52	(19.3.1992)	(for 1992)		
	8	US$	58 500.75	(30.3.1993)	(for 1993)		
	9	US$	48 045.46	(24.2.1994)	(for 1994)		
	10	US$	54 660.59	(5.4.1995)	(for 1995)		7 000 000
Sri Lanka	1	US$	500.00	(25.4.1988)	(for 1988)		
	2	US$	500.00	(12.2.1991)	(for 1990)		
	3	US$	500.00	(12.2.1991)	(for 1991)		
	4	US$	500.00	(8.3.1993)	(for 1992)		
Sweden	1	US$	150 000.00	(14.6.1982)	(for 1982)		
	2	US$	60 790.27	(16.1.1984)	(for 1984)		
	3	US$	72 020.16	(31.10.1986)	(for 1986)		
	4	US$	95 655.64	(1.7.1988)	(for 1988)		
	5	US$	169 097.00	(29.11.1991)	(for 1991)	SKr	1 000 000
	6	US$	173 631.46	(20.2.1992)	(for 1992)		1 000 000
	7	US$	247 142.42	(13.10.1993)	(for 1993)		2 000 000
	8	US$	376 647.83	(22.10.1993)	(for 1994)		3 000 000
	9	US$	475 367.00	(11.11.1994)	(for 1995)		3 500 000
Switzerland	1	US$	68 540.10	(3.1.1984)	(for 1984)	Sw F	150 000
	2	US$	92 165.90	(30.10.1986)	(for 1986)		150 000
	3	US$	32 258.06	(1.3.1989)	(for 1989)		50 000
	4	US$	15 748.03	(18.1.1991)	(for 1990)		20 000
	5	US$	25 925.93	(15.1.1992)	(for 1991)		35 000
	6	US$	46 357.62	(6.1.1993)	(for 1992)		70 000
	7	US$	52 777.78	(23.12.1993)	(for 1993)		76 000
	8	US$	24 409.45	(16.1.1995)	(for 1995)		

State	Contribution No.	Currency	Amount	Date pledged/paid	Contribution year	Equivalent in local currency	
Togo	1	US$	1 540.43	(15.3.1989)	(for 1989)		
Tunisia	1	US$	1 298.70	(16.5.1991)	(for 1991)	D	1 000
	2	US$	1 298.70	(16.4.1992)	(for 1992)		1 000
	3	US$	1 948.00	(15.4.1992)	(for 1993)		1 500
	4	US$	1 753.24	(9.6.1993)	(for 1993, additional)		
	5	US$	1 489.57	(14.11.1994)	(for 1994)		1 500
Uganda	1	US$	737.00	(19.7.1994)	(for 1994)		
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1	US$	12 445.00	(2.10.1984)	(1985 + 86)	£	10 000
	2	US$	41 987.50	(20.5.1987)	(1987 + 88)		25 000
	3	US$	50 733.00	(15.2.1990)	(1989 + 90)		25 000
	4	US$	42 006.58	(24.9.1991)	(1991 + 92)		25 000
	5	US$	52 238.81	(15.2.1994)	(1993 + 94)		35 000
	6	US$	48 328.00	(9.5.1995)	(for 1995)		
United States of America	1	US$	100 000.00	(1.10.1985)	(for 1985)		
	2	US$	86 000.00	(1.2.1987)	(for 1986)		
	3	US$	86 000.00	(1.6.1987)	(for 1987)		
	4	US$	90 000.00	(18.2.1992)	(for 1988)		
	5	US$	100 000.00	(18.2.1992)	(for 1989)		
	6	US$	100 000.00	(18.2.1992)	(for 1990)		
	7	US$	100 000.00	(18.2.1992)	(for 1991)		
	8	US$	97 000.00	(23.12.1992)	(for 1992)		
	9	US$	500 000.00	(29.3.1993)	(for 1993)		
	10	US$	1 500 000.00 c/	(20.5.1994)	(for 1994)		

State	Contribution No.	Currency	Amount	Date pledged/paid	Contribution year	Equivalent in local currency
United States of America (continued)	11	US$	1 500 000.00	(24.1.1995)	(for 1995)	
Yugoslavia	1	US$	5 000.00	(18.12.1990)	(for 1990)	

a/ Pledge made by letter.

b/ Pledge made at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities in New York in November 1993.

c/ US$ 500,000 paid on 18.8.94 and US$ 1 million on 24.10.94.

Annex II

HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE FROM THE FUND

A. Organizations that have authorized the Fund secretariat to mention their identity, the type of assistance they provide and their geographical coverage

Organization	Type of assistance provided	Geographical area covered
Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo (APM) (Argentina)	Psychological, social, legal	Latin America
Amigos de los Sobrevivientes (Oregon, United States)	Medical, psychological, social	Latin America
APT (Switzerland)	Organization of seminars	Europe
ATYHA Instituto de Alternativas en Psicología (Asunción, Paraguay)	Medical, psychological, social	Latin America
AVRE Association pour les victimes de la répression en exil (Paris)	Medical, psychological, social, training of health-care professionals	Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America
BALAY Rehabilitation Centre (Quezon City, Philippines)	Medical, psychological, social	Asia
Behandlungszentrum für Folteropfer (Berlin)	Medical, psychological, social, training of health-care professionals	Africa, Asia, Europe, Eastern Europe, Latin America, Middle East
CAPSDH Ghana Commission africaine des promoteurs de la santé et des droits de l'homme (Accra)	Medical, psychological, social	Africa
CAPSDH Guinea Commission africaine des promoteurs de la santé et des droits de l'homme (Guinea)	Medical, psychological, social	Africa

Organization	Type of assistance provided	Geographical area covered
CAPSDH Carvitore Commission africaine des promoteurs de la santé et des droits de l'homme (Eritrea)	Medical	Africa
CCVT Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture (Toronto, Canada)	Medical, psychological	Latin America, Africa, Asia, Middle East
CEFPRODHAC Centro de Estudios Fronterizos y de Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (Tamaulipas, Mexico)	Medical, psychological, legal	Latin America
CIIS California Institute of Integral Studies (California, United States)	Medical, psychological	Latin America, Asia
CINTRAS Centro de Salud Mental y Derechos Humanos (Santiago)	Medical, psychological, social, training of health-care professionals	Latin America
CODESEDH Comité para la Defensa de la Salud, la Etica Profesional y los Derechos Humanos (Buenos Aires)	Medical, psychological, social, seminars	Latin America
COMEDE Comité médical pour les exilés (Paris)	Medical, psychological, social, training of health-care professionals	Africa, Asia, Latin America
Swedish Red Cross (Stockholm)	Medical, psychological, social, training of health-care professionals	Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America
CVICT Centre for Victims of Torture (Kathmandu)	Medical, psychological, social	Asia
CVT Centre for Victims of Torture (Minnesota, United States)	Medical, psychological, social	World wide

Organization	Type of assistance provided	Geographical area covered
EATIP Equipo Argentino de Trabajo e Investigación Psicosocial (Buenos Aires)	Medical, psychological, social	Latin America
EXIL Centre médico-psychosocial pour réfugiés (Brussels)	Medical, psychological, social, training of health-care professionals	Africa, Latin America, Asia
FASIC Fundación de Ayuda Social de las Iglesias Cristianas (Santiago)	Medical, psychological, social, legal, seminars	Latin America
FIND Family of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance (Philippines)	Psychological	Asia
Geneva Initiative on Psychiatry and Ukrainian Psychiatric Association (Amsterdam)	Medical, psychological, social	Eastern Europe
HRFT Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir)	Medical, psychological	Europe
ICAR Foundation (Bucharest)	Medical, psychological, social	Eastern Europe
IMA Indian Medical Association (India)	Training of health-care professionals	Asia
Iglesia Metodista Centro de Salud Mental (Punta Arenas, Chile)	Medical, psychological	Latin America
JKC Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights (London)	Medical, psychological, social	Asia
Justice pour Tazmamart (Morocco)	Social	Africa

Organization	Type of assistance provided	Geographical area covered
LAPPH Ligue des anciens prisonniers politiques haitiens, des amis et parents des disparus (Port-au-Prince)	Medical, social, legal	Caribbean
Mandela Institute (Israel)	Medical, psychological, legal	Middle East
MIDU Mutualista Israelita del Uruguay (Montevideo)	Medical, psychological	Latin America
Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture (London)	Medical, psychological, social, training of health-care professionals	World wide
Methodist Church of Southern Africa (Durban, South Africa)	Medical, psychological, social, legal	Africa
PCATI (Israel)	Legal	Middle East
PIDEE Fundación para la protección de la infancia dañada por los estados de emergencia (Santiago)	Medical, social and educational assistance for child victims of torture	Latin America
POC Prisoners of Conscience Appeal Fund (London)	Social	Middle East, Africa, Eastern Europe
Primo Levi (France)	Medical, psychological, social	Europe
PTV Programme for Torture Victims (California, United States)	Medical, psychological, social	Latin America, Asia, Africa
RCT Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims (Copenhagen)	Medical, psychological, seminars, training of health-care professionals	World wide

Organization	Type of assistance provided	Geographical area covered
RIVO Réseau d'intervention auprès des personnes ayant subi la violence organisée (Montreal, Canada)	Medical, psychological, social	Africa, Latin America, Middle East
SELDA Society of Ex-Detainees for Liberation against Detention and for Amnesty (Manila)	Medical, psychological, social, legal	Asia
SOS Torture (Geneva)	Emergency aid for torture victims	Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America
Survivors International of Northern California (California, United States)	Medical, psychological, training of health-care professionals	Africa, Latin America, Asia, Eastern Europe, Middle East
Taller Julio Cortázar (Córdoba, Argentina)	Medical, psychological, social and legal assistance for child victims of torture	Latin America
TNM Tortura Nunca Mais (Rio de Janeiro)	Medical, psychological, social	Latin America
VAT Voice Against Torture (Islamabad)	Medical, psychological, social, training of health-care professionals	Middle East, Asia
ZEBRA Zentrum zur socialmedizinischen, rechtlichen und kulturellen Betreuung von Ausländern und Ausländerinnen (Graz, Austria)	Medical, psychological, social	Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Middle East

B. Other organizations

Some humanitarian, medical and social organizations preferred not to appear on this list. The Fund secretariat is, however, authorized to report their number (65), type of activity (medical, psychological and social assistance, training of health-care professionals) and geographical areas of operation (Latin America, Asia, South-East Asia, Middle East, Eastern Europe and Africa).

Annex III

PRESS RELEASE ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

From 1983 to 1995, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture has supported more than 100 organizations and financed more than 500 requests for assistance to torture victims in about 60 countries. The projects subsidized by the Fund fall essentially into the following fields: psychotherapy, medical care, social rehabilitation, and training of professionals and volunteers (doctors, psychologists, physiotherapists, paramedical personnel, social workers, etc.) for specialized treatment of torture victims. In addition to helping victims of torture directly, the Fund has also been able to assist the relatives of the latter with their psychological, economic, legal and social problems, and has contributed to the development and application of suitable treatments for torture victims.

Each year, the Board of Trustees of the Fund meets for eight working days to examine narrative, financial and audit reports on the use of grants made in previous years as well as requests for continuing assistance and new projects.

During its fourteenth session, which ended on 24 May 1995, the Board assessed the implementation of the projects subsidized by the Fund and heard 11 persons responsible for 37 of them. In 1995, 104 projects were recommended to the Secretary-General, for a total amount of US$ 2.7 million. However, with requests for assistance totalling $5.7 million, not more than half of the required amounts could be granted in 1995.

Although, for the second time since 1994, the United States contributed to the Fund with an amount of $1.5 million, the Board of Trustees had $1 million less at its disposal this year. No later than last February, only $1.5 million were available for new grants to be recommended by the Board at its annual session in May. Therefore, in its resolution 1995/37, the Commission on Human Rights appealed to Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to contribute to the Fund, if possible, on a regular basis and annually before the session of the Board of Trustees. The positive replies of a number of Governments have helped improve the financial situation of the Fund. Those Governments are the following: Argentina, Austria, Chile, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Background information

The struggle by the United Nations against torture began in 1948, when torture was prohibited by the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It was again prohibited in 1966 by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and in 1984 by the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Despite these repeated prohibitions under international law, torture is still a widespread phenomenon and there is every reason to continue the struggle for its eradication.

One of the means to mitigate the effects of torture on the victims and their families is to give them medical, psychological, social, legal and economic aid. With this in mind, the General Assembly established, in 1981, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture to direct humanitarian, legal and financial assistance to victims of torture and to relatives of such victims anywhere in the world through established channels of assistance. The Fund is administered by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, with the advice of a Board of Trustees consisting of five members with wide experience in the field of human rights. The membership of the Board of Trustees is as follows: Mr. Jaap Walkate, Chairman (Netherlands), Ms. Elisabeth Odio-Benito (Costa Rica), Mr. Ribot Hatano (Japan), Mr. Ivan Tosevski (former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and Mr. Amos Wako (Kenya).

Since the establishment of the Fund the following Governments have contributed either on a regular or on a one-off basis: Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bhutan, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, San Marino, Senegal, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda, Togo, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Yugoslavia.

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General Assembly

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A/50/513
5 October 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 73

THE RISK OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At its forty-ninth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 49/78 of 15 December 1994 entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East", the operative part of which, inter alia, reads as follows:

> "The General Assembly,
>
> "...
>
> "1. Calls upon Israel and all other States of the region that are not yet party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons, to renounce possession of nuclear weapons and to accede to the Treaty;"
>
> "2. Calls upon the States of the region that have not done so to place all their nuclear facilities under full-scope safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency as an important confidence-building measure among all States of the region and as a step towards enhancing peace and security;"
>
> "3. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the implementation of the present resolution;
>
> "..."

2. This report is being submitted pursuant to paragraph 3 of the above resolution. Apart from the material forwarded by the International Atomic Energy Agency (see annex), the Secretary-General has not received any additional information since the submission of his last report on the subject (A/49/652) to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

ANNEX

Resolution GC(39)RES/24 of 22 September 1995 of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency

The General Conference,

(a) Recognizing the importance of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons - both globally and regionally - in enhancing international peace and security,

(b) Mindful of the usefulness of the Agency's safeguards system as a reliable means of verification of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy,

(c) Concerned by the grave consequences, endangering peace and security of the presence in the Middle East region of nuclear activities not wholly devoted to peaceful purposes,

(d) Welcoming the initiatives regarding the establishment of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, in the Middle East and recent initiatives regarding arms control in the region,

(e) Recognizing that full realization of these objectives would be promoted by participation of all States of the region,

(f) Commending the efforts of the Agency concerning the application of safeguards in the Middle East and the positive response of some States in concluding a full-scope safeguards agreement, and

(g) Recalling its resolution GC(XXXVIII)/RES/21.

1. Takes note of the Director General's report in document GOV/2825/GC(39)/20;

2. Affirms the urgent need for all States in the Middle East to forthwith accept the application full-scope Agency safeguards to all their nuclear activities as an impor confidence-building measure among all States in the region and as a step in enhancing peace and security in the context of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone (NWFZ);

3. Calls upon all parties directly concerned to consider seriously taking the practical and appropriate steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a mutually and effectively verifiable NWFZ in the region, and invites the countries to adhere to international non-proliferation regimes, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as a means of complementing participation in a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and of strengthening peace and security in the region;

4. Takes note of the importance of the ongoing bilateral Middle East peace negotiations and the activities of the multilateral working group on Arms Control and Regional Security in promoting mutual confidence and security in the Middle East, including establishment of a NWFZ, and calls on the Director

General, as requested by the participants, to render all necessary assistance to the working group in promoting that objective;

5. Requests the Director General to continue consultations with the States of the Middle East to facilitate the early application of full-scope Agency safeguards to all nuclear activities in the region as relevant to the preparation of model agreements, as a necessary step towards the establishment of a NWFZ in the region, referred to in resolution GC(XXXVII)/RES/627;

6. Calls upon all States in the region to extend their fullest cooperation to the Director General in the fulfilment of the tasks entrusted to him in the preceding paragraph;

7. Further calls upon all States in the region to take measures, including confidence-building and verification measures, aimed at establishing a NFWZ in the Middle East;

8. Calls upon all other States, especially those with a special responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, to render all assistance to the Director General by facilitating the implementation of this resolution; and

9. Requests the Director General to submit to the Board of Governors and to the General Conference at its fortieth regular session a report on the implementation of this resolution and to include in the provisional agenda for that session an item entitled "Application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East".

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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, at its forty-ninth session, adopted resolution 49/192 of 23 December 1994 entitled "Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities" by which the Assembly urged States and the international community to promote and protect the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities as set out in the Declaration, including through the facilitation of their full participation in all aspects of the political, economic, social, religious and cultural life of society and in the economic progress and development in their country; and also urged States to take, as appropriate, all the necessary constitutional, legislative, administrative and other measures to promote and give effect to the principles contained in the Declaration.

2. In paragraph 8, the Assembly called upon the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to promote, within his mandate, the implementation of the principles contained in the Declaration and to continue to engage in a dialogue with Governments concerned for that purpose. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fiftieth session on the implementation of the resolution under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

3. Pursuant to that resolution, the Secretary-General, by a communication dated 5 April 1995, invited States, interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, special representatives, special rapporteurs and relevant working groups of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to submit their comments to the Centre for Human Rights by 4 July 1995.

4. As of 25 August 1995, replies had been received from the Governments of Argentina, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Germany, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Mauritius, Morocco, the Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Spain and Ukraine.

5. Information was also provided by the relevant organs, bodies and special rapporteurs of the United Nations giving due regard to the Declaration in the execution of their mandates.

6. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights submitted information on his activities in the field of minority protection.

7. A reply was also received from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

8. The Council of Europe sent a document on the work accomplished and currently being carried out in this field by the Council and its organs (European Court of Human Rights and European Commission on Human Rights).

9. Replies were received from two non-governmental organizations, Caritas Internationalis and the World Muslim Congress.

10. The present report is submitted to the General Assembly in pursuance of resolution 49/192.

II. PROMOTION AND PROTECTION BY STATES OF THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS BELONGING TO NATIONAL OR ETHNIC, RELIGIOUS AND LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

11. Fifteen Governments, one specialized agency, one intergovernmental and two non-governmental organizations replied to the request of the Secretary-General to submit contributions to the Centre for Human Rights. The Governments of Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Morocco, the Russian Federation, Spain and Ukraine provided substantive information on the promotion and protection of persons belonging to minorities within their countries. In view of the fact that only a few replies were received and that little substantive information was submitted on the promotion and implementation of the Declaration, it was neither possible to describe the promotion by States of the relevant provisions of the Declaration in detail, nor to provide an accurate representative reflection of the measures taken by the international community as a whole.

A. Protection of the existence of persons belonging to minorities

12. The Governments of Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Dominica, Mauritius, Morocco, the Russian Federation and Ukraine recognized the existence of national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minority groups on their respective territories, and mentioned the relevant constitutional and legislative provisions protecting them. In addition, the Russian Federation stated that everyone shall have the right to voluntarily determine and state his national identity on the basis of self-identification, and the Czech Republic provided information on the acquisition by minorities of Czech citizenship.

B. Right of minorities to enjoy their own culture

13. In the Russian Federation, a draft law on national and cultural autonomy has been elaborated which confirms the rights of ethnic communities to preserve and develop their cultural and national individuality, in particular, to protect, restore and preserve their age-old cultural and historical environment. In Ukraine, the 1992 Fundamentals of Legislation on the Culture of Ukraine are aimed at the protection of cultures of national minorities living on its territory. There exist 30 Russian and 30 Ukrainian-Russian theatres, one Crimean Tatar theatre in Simferopol, a Hungarian theatre in Beregiv, the Jewish and Romany theatres in Kiev and approximately 2,000 various ethnic amateur performance troupes in Ukraine. The Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic has provided financial support for cultural activities of the Romany minority. The Government of Mauritius has established various funds to preserve and promote the African, Indian and Islamic cultures, and that of the Ilois community.

C. Right of minorities to practise and profess their own religion

14. The Constitution of the Lao People's Democratic Republic stipulates that the State shall respect and protect the legal activities of persons practising Buddhism and other religions. The Government of Morocco stated that the Jewish Moroccan minority enjoys the constitutional right to manifest its religion, whereby freedom of worship is guaranteed.

D. Right of minorities to use their own language

15. The Governments of Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Germany, Morocco and the Russian Federation guarantee minorities the use of their own language. In the Czech Republic and Morocco, the Romany and Tamazight minorities have the right to disseminate and receive information in their respective language through a variety of newspapers and magazines and television programmes. At five universities in the Czech Republic projects have been developed to acquaint primary schoolteachers with basic knowledge of the Romany language and culture to stimulate the preparation of textbooks for Romany children. The Danish and Sorbian minorities in Germany are encouraged to make use of their language in public life and both minority languages are taught in schools in the areas in which these minorities live. The Constitution of the Russian Federation guarantees that everyone has the right to use his native language and freely choose the language of communication, education, training and creative work.

E. Right of minorities to participate effectively in cultural, religious, social, economic and public life

16. The Government of Morocco stated that the participation of the Jewish Moroccan minority in all aspects of political, economic and social life of Moroccan society is guaranteed. In particular, cultural activities include the promotion of literary and artistic works such as the publication of poetry and the production of films and theatre.

F. Right of minorities to participate effectively in decisions at the national level

17. In Cyprus the right to vote and stand for election without any discrimination on the ground of ethnic origin or any other ground is safeguarded by law. All religious groups have the right to be represented in the Communal Chamber of the community to which they opted to belong and the election of their representatives in the House of Representatives is guaranteed. The Government of Morocco pointed out that in accordance with article 12 of the Constitution all citizens have equal access to public office.

G. Right of minorities to establish and maintain their own associations

18. According to information provided by the Government of Cyprus, every person has the constitutional right to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and join trade unions. The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic pointed out that citizens enjoyed the rights of association with others and of peaceful assembly if the relevant activities are not contrary to existing laws and regulations. The Governments of the Czech Republic, Morocco and Ukraine stated that 30 Romany civic associations and 4 Romany organizations, 11 Tamazight associations and 237 ethno-cultural societies were established in their respective countries.

H. Equality before the law

19. The Government of Morocco pointed out that in accordance with article 5 of the revised Constitution of 4 September 1992, all Moroccans are equal before the law and no minority is subject to any form of discrimination.

I. Mechanisms, procedure and other measures to promote and protect the rights of persons belonging to minorities

20. The Government of Cyprus stated that it had introduced into its national legislation the prohibition of acts amounting to incitement to discrimination, hostility, hatred and violence on account of ethnic or racial origin or for religious reasons. The Government of Spain pointed out that it has included a new aggravating circumstance into the Criminal Code regarding offences against persons and property where the act has been committed on racist, anti-Semitic or other grounds relating to the ethnic or national origin, ideology, religion or beliefs of the victim. The Czech Republic mentioned that education in democracy, tolerance and human rights was added to the primary and secondary school curricula. The Russian Federation is currently elaborating a draft law on national-cultural autonomy in the Federation which would guarantee democratic rights for Russian minorities irrespective of where they live.

J. Commitments under international treaties and agreements

21. The Governments of Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany and Spain have recently signed the Council of Europe framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, thus clearly demonstrating their commitment to the protection of national minorities in general (for further details about the provisions of the framework Convention, see the section on the Council of Europe below). In addition, the Russian Federation has signed a number of treaties with other States, including the Declaration on the principles of cooperation with the Republic of Hungary on guarantees for the rights of national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities. Spain has adopted the Organization Act providing for the necessary measures, in accordance with domestic law, to comply with the establishment of an international tribunal for the purpose of prosecuting persons responsible for various violations of

international humanitarian law committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE RELEVANT ORGANS AND BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS GIVING DUE REGARD TO THE DECLARATION IN THE EXECUTION OF THEIR MANDATES

A. Commission on Human Rights

22. The Commission on Human Rights, at its fifty-first session in 1995, considered the reports prepared by the Secretary-General on the subject (A/49/415 and Add.1 and E/CN.4/1995/84). In its resolution 1995/24 the Commission, noting with appreciation the working paper prepared by the Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Mr. Asbjørn Eide (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/36 and Corr.1), containing suggestions for a comprehensive programme for the prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities, took note of General Assembly resolution 49/192 in which the Assembly called upon the Commission to examine, as a matter of priority, ways and means to promote and protect effectively the rights of persons belonging to minorities, as set out in the Declaration. In addition, the Commission decided to authorize the request of the Subcommission, contained in resolution 1994/4, to establish, initially for a three-year period, an intersessional working group consisting of five of its members to meet each year for five working days in order to promote the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, as set out in the Declaration, and in particular to:

(a) Review the promotional and practical realization of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities;

(b) Examine possible solutions to problems involving minorities, including the promotion of mutual understanding between and among minorities and Governments;

(c) Recommend further measures, as appropriate, for the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities.

23. In its resolution 1995/31, the Economic and Social Council authorized the establishment of this working group.

B. Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

24. The first session of the working group on minorities of the Subcommission was held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 28 August to 1 September 1995. Its report will be considered by the Subcommission at its forty-eighth session in 1996.

25. In paragraph 2 of its resolution 1994/4, the Subcommission requested the Secretary-General to invite Governments and competent intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies to submit their comments on the recommendations contained in addendum 4 to the final report presented by Mr. Asbjørn Eide on possible ways and means of facilitating the peaceful and constructive solution of problems involving minorities (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1993/34/Add.1-4), and to make the comments available at the forty-seventh session of the Subcommission.

26. In compliance with this request, the Secretary-General prepared a report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/33 and Add.1-2) which had relevance for the promotion of the Declaration. While examining what could be done on a national level to promote ethnic accommodation and prevent ethnic conflict, education, language and cultural policy and practice were considered. In particular, it was pointed out that education policy had a potentially great impact on the development of a sense of mutual respect and civic identity among people.

27. The report also dealt with a fairly wide spectrum of economic, political and social policies which had a considerable impact on ethnic relations. The view was expressed that countries that were successful in achieving rapid and broad-based growth tended to find it easier to accommodate the material claims and aspirations of various ethnic groups. However, rising prosperity might also intensify ethnic competition or harm certain groups. On the other hand, policies that contributed to economic stagnation and decline, thus intensifying poverty and insecurity, were likely to exacerbate ethnic tensions and provided fertile ground for those wishing to exploit such tensions. The distribution of resources, in addition to the absolute increase or decrease in prosperity, was a key factor in the rise of discontent. Strategies that increased economic inequalities, especially if they coincided with ethnic divisions, marginalized certain groups and exacerbated ethnic discrimination and tension. It also pointed out that mature modern democracies must take into account social pluralism and, therefore, seek a participatory and consensual character. In such a system, majority rule was mitigated by the minority groups' right of access to public decision-making, coalition structures of government, overrepresentation of minorities within State institutions, veto powers to protect vital minority and other group interests, and a spirit of compromise. A non-monolithic conception of the people was a precondition for the enjoyment of fair opportunities by minority groups in this idea of government.

C. United Nations Centre for Human Rights

28. The Centre for Human Rights has continued to assist the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission and the Subcommission in the effective promotion of the Declaration. In addition, it began to service the above-mentioned working group on minorities. The Centre also carries out research and studies in this field, assists in the preparation of the reports of the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and special rapporteurs. It also administers the programme of advisory services and technical assistance relating to the promotion of the Declaration as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/192.

29. In particular, in 1994 and from January to July 1995, country-wide needs assessment missions were conducted for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, El Salvador, Georgia, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Haiti, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania, designed to form the basis of country programmes of technical assistance in each of those States. During the mission to the States of the Caucasus, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and Rwanda, representatives of the Centre held consultations with representatives of national minority groups, in order that their views and concerns might be effectively responded to in the Centre's programme development activities for those States. In addition, the members of the mission held discussions on minority issues with relevant government officials, including governmental advisers on minority issues. As a result of these missions, the Centre produced comprehensive needs assessment reports for Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia each of which devoted particular attention to proposals for training and institutional strengthening aimed at ensuring the effective protection and promotion of the rights of national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities consistent with international human rights standards, in particular with those embodied in the Declaration. The Centre for Human Rights also provided assistance in drafting a law on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities in Georgia and submitted comments and recommendations on a draft law on minority rights to the Republic of Moldova.

30. A seminar on the promotion and protection of the rights of minorities in Romania was held at Bucharest from 18 to 21 October 1994. It was organized in cooperation with the Romanian Government and participants were invited from among the national minorities in the country, national non-governmental organizations and governmental institutions. Issues discussed included ethnic and linguistic rights, as well as religious and cultural rights of minorities.

31. From June to December 1994, the Centre for Human Rights organized a seminar and two workshops at Bujumbura. The specific objective of the seminar and one of the workshops was to provide participants with information on peaceful conflict-resolution techniques and on the use of legal, administrative and human rights institutions for the settlement of disputes. Courses of this nature were targeted to both relevant government agencies and to certain groups in society such as trade unions, minority groups, NGOs and political parties. The role and functions of the judiciary, national human rights institutions, administrative agencies and alternative dispute-resolution mechanisms were also important topics. It may be recalled that the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1993/24, called upon the programme of advisory services and technical assistance of the Centre for Human Rights to make available expert assistance, inter alia, in the area of conflict resolution involving minorities.

D. United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

32. Activities aimed at the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities constitute an integral and significant part of the High Commissioner's mandate as set out in General Assembly resolution 48/141 by which the Assembly decided that the High Commissioner for Human Rights would be the United Nations official with principal responsibility for United Nations human

rights activities under the direction and authority of the Secretary-General, and entrusted him with the responsibility for, inter alia, promoting and protecting the effective enjoyment by all of all civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights; providing, through the Centre for Human Rights and other appropriate institutions, advisory services and technical and financial assistance; coordinating relevant United Nations education and public information programmes in the field of human rights; engaging in a dialogue with all Governments in the implementation of his/her mandate with a view to securing respect for all human rights; and coordinating the human rights promotion and protection activities throughout the United Nations system. The General Assembly has further decided to give to the High Commissioner a specific mandate relating to the protection of minorities. In its resolution 49/192, the Assembly entrusted the High Commissioner with the responsibility to promote the implementation of the principles contained in the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities and to continue to engage in a dialogue with Governments concerned for that purpose.

33. Protecting the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities is an imperative deriving from the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirmed the obligation of States to ensure that persons belonging to minorities may exercise fully and effectively all human rights and fundamental freedoms without any discrimination and in full equality before the law in accordance with the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities. The World Conference further stated that those persons have the right to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion and to use their own language in private and in public, freely and without interference or any form of discrimination.

34. It is in the spirit of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action that the High Commissioner situates his activities relating to the rights of minorities. He has repeatedly stressed that the peaceful coexistence of minorities, the harmonious relations among communities and respect for each group's identity are great assets to the multi-ethnic and multicultural mosaic of our global society. Every individual, every group and every nation finds richness in diversity and can benefit from an exchange of ideas, experiences and views. However, the coexistence of different groups is not always peaceful, and problems relating to minorities are today one of the major sources of international and internal conflicts involving widespread and at times massive human rights violations with severe repercussions for the peace and stability of the community of nations. In this multidimensional context, the question of the protection and promotion of the human rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities is of overriding importance for the respect of human rights generally and central to the promotion of understanding, tolerance and solidarity between and among communities and Governments.

35. At the Fourteenth Regional Conference of European United Nations Associations (Geneva, 7-9 November 1994), speaking on the question of minority rights, the High Commissioner stressed that the State must be the common home of all ethnic, religious and linguistic groups residing in its territory; those groups must enjoy de facto equality and none of their members should be a second-class citizen. He also stated that in situations where there was no

declared conflict, there were several mechanisms and institutions that could play a preventive role by seeking constructive solutions. In that respect, the bodies set up under the United Nations international conventions relating to human rights all had an important role to play, one which could in fact be strengthened in accordance with the spirit of the Declaration.

36. The High Commissioner wishes to continue to engage in a constructive dialogue with Governments to campaign for the promotion and implementation of the Declaration and other relevant international instruments; to appeal for the full respect of the rights of persons belonging to minorities; to contribute to the promotion of human rights education; to offer advisory and technical assistance to strengthen the national instruments to protect the rights of persons belonging to minorities; and promptly to respond to emergency situations involving minorities. The High Commissioner has referred to issues relating to minorities as complex human problems and has appealed for full respect for the human rights of persons belonging to minorities as expressed in the Declaration, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other international instruments. In addition, he has appealed for government policies that would respond to the legitimate expectations of all people living in the country and enable everyone to feel secure in his/her rights. In the activities of the High Commissioner relating to Rwanda, Burundi and the former Yugoslavia, problems concerning the protection of persons belonging to minorities remain high on the agenda. More information on those activities is contained in his report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-first session (E/CN.4/1995/98). Relevant information will also be included in his report to the present session of the General Assembly. During his country visits, the High Commissioner, in addition to government officials, meets and exchanges views with representatives of minority groups.

37. The High Commissioner develops cooperation with international organizations, including regional organizations, aimed at the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities and the resolution of problems related thereto. He is undertaking activities aimed at an effective coordination of the cooperation between United Nations organs and bodies in this area, including the flow of relevant information, exchange of experience and joint activities. The coordination of efforts should enable these organs and bodies to work as a system.

38. The High Commissioner intends to strengthen further the minorities component of the activities of the Centre for Human Rights, including the programme of advisory services and technical assistance; to set up within the United Nations system an information system for the protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities; to place emphasis on various aspects of the protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities and on minority-related conflict resolution in human rights education, including the implementation of the activities of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education; and to provide full logistical and substantive support to the Subcommission's working group on minorities.

39. In the view of the High Commissioner, further progress in the field of the protection of minorities depends on concerted efforts by Governments and international and non-governmental organizations aimed at the creation of a

culture open to understanding the richness that exists in a multicultural and multi-ethnic society. The protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities, based on mutual tolerance and acceptance, promises to open new perspectives free of the disasters common to many regions of the world. The Centre for Human Rights, in close cooperation with other bodies and organs of the United Nations, is available for developing activities aimed at facilitating the full participation of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities in all aspects of the political, economic, social, religious and cultural life of their societies and in the economic progress and development of their countries.

40. The High Commissioner also takes action with regard to minorities in the broader context of the rise of xenophobia and new forms of racial and ethnic discrimination and of reported attacks on migrant workers, immigrants, asylum-seekers and refugees. He has received assurances that the authorities concerned are determined to take the necessary measures to deal with such manifestations. In that context, the European Union's declaration on the subject adopted at the Corfu Summit in June 1994 is to be welcomed.

IV. SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

41. One of UNESCO's mandates is to contribute to the struggle against discrimination in all its fields of competence including discrimination against persons belonging to minorities. A number of UNESCO's standard-setting instruments concerning cultural rights cover this subject fairly comprehensively and embrace individuals, regions, groups, peoples, nation-States and even humankind in general. Recognizing that States should first of all create conditions and provide guarantees for the implementation of cultural rights, not only to eliminate discrimination but also to undertake affirmative action, UNESCO's standard-setting instruments stress that this responsibility should be shared with other social actors.

42. Of particular importance in this respect is the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960) which provides for protection of the educational rights of minorities and individuals. Similarly, the UNESCO Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice (1978) contains provisions for promoting non-discriminatory practices. These instruments, as well as the Recommendation Concerning Education for International Understanding, Cooperation and Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1974) are monitored by way of periodic collection of information as regards their implementation in the member States.

43. It is also pertinent to mention that in decision 3.3 taken at its 104th session (September-October 1977), the Executive Board of UNESCO laid down the procedures for the examination of cases and questions submitted to UNESCO concerning the violation of human rights in its fields of competence.

44. UNESCO continues to implement activities relating to the protection of the cultural rights of persons belonging to minorities, following decision 4.41

taken by the Executive Board at its 144th session in April-May 1994, at which the Executive Board noted with satisfaction the ongoing activities of the organization in that regard.

45. UNESCO is at present collecting material on national legislation and policies concerning the protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities, in order to gain a better perception of the status of protection given at the national/local level. The organization is also gathering information on bilateral arrangements for such protection. These could provide the bases for further reflections and activities in this field.

46. A notable activity relates to the preparation of a manual on human rights teaching in institutions of higher education. The manual would contain a chapter on the rights of persons belonging to minorities, and thereby contribute to educational action in this field.

47. During the coming biennium 1996-1997, UNESCO will give particular attention to the prevention of discrimination against persons belonging to disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, notably in the sphere of education and culture. With a view to promoting the implementation of UNESCO's Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education, member States will be provided with a compilation of examples of national education laws, policies and measures against discrimination in education, with particular emphasis on the educational and cultural rights of women and girls, refugees, migrants and persons belonging to minorities.

48. UNESCO has contributed to the safeguard of a common heritage composed of several cultures as well as the promotion of artistic expression of groups or persons belonging to different cultural communities. Pilot projects to promote the cultural activities of nomads have been implemented in order to demonstrate that those cultures, linking their originality and creativity to their adoptive societies, constitute immense sources of richness for humanity.

49. UNESCO has also made an intellectual contribution further to the request of research institutions and multicultural or intercultural centres involved in the daily management of the phenomenon of social exclusion arising from cultural discrimination. Moral and technical support have been provided to the launching and coordination of projects on the religious or cultural convergence within various multi-ethnic nations. Certain key issues were identified:

(a) Creating a way to encourage dialogue between minorities and Governments;

(b) Enabling Governments to review and explore the recommendations of Asbjørn Eide and the Declaration, including the implementation by United Nations agencies and bodies;

(c) Facilitating the effective promotion of the Declaration and Asbjørn Eide's recommendations;

(d) Ensuring that Governments (and, where possible, minorities) explore models of good practice including the internationalization standards on minorities;

(e) Entering into a dialogue with treaty bodies on the Declaration and Asbjørn Eide's recommendations;

(f) Seeking to incorporate the issue of minority rights appropriately into all existing United Nations mechanisms.

V. TREATY BODIES

A. Human Rights Committee

50. The Human Rights Committee continued to monitor the observance of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It considered and commented on a number of reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant, with specific reference to the implementation of article 27. The Committee, in its interpretation of the implementation by States parties of article 27 and in its observations, suggestions and recommendations, took into account General Comment No. 23(50) adopted by the Committee at its fiftieth session on 6 April 1994. The Committee referred to the issue of minorities in its consideration of the periodic reports at its fifty-fourth session of, among others, Ukraine, Latvia, Tunisia, Morocco, New Zealand and the United States of America.

51. In its dialogue with States parties, the Committee requested on a number of occasions clarification of the measures taken with respect to the implementation of article 27 in the light of its General Comment No. 23. In certain cases, the Committee regretted that the necessary steps to adopt legislative and other measures to give effect to article 27 had not been taken and that the level of the protection of minorities was still not in conformity with the Covenant.

52. At its fifty-second session, the Committee considered Communication No. 511/1992, Ilmari Länsman et al. v. Finland, under article 5, paragraph 4, of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The authors of the communication are Ilmari Länsman and 47 other members of the Muotkatunturi Herdsmen's Committee and members of the Angeli local community. The authors affirm that the quarrying of stone on the flank of the Etelä-Riutusvaara mountain and its transportation through their reindeer-herding territory would violate their right under article 27 of the Covenant, in particular their right to enjoy their own culture, which has traditionally been and remains essentially based on reindeer husbandry. In the light of the information provided by the parties and of paragraph 7 of its General Comment No. 23 on article 27, the Committee concluded that quarrying on the slopes of Mount Riutusvaara in the amount that had already taken place did not constitute a denial of the authors' right, under article 27, to enjoy their own culture, and thus found no breach of article 27 or any other provision of the Covenant.

B. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

53. While the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination does not contain any article aimed specifically at the promotion and protection of the rights of minorities, article 2(2) is of relevance to ethnic or racial groups as it imposes an obligation on States parties to undertake affirmative action in respect of groups which have suffered from discriminatory practices. According to article 2(2) States must take affirmative action "when the circumstances so warrant". In respect of the applicability of this article in situations where the Government concerned denies the identity or existence of a particular group, it seems that the practice of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination tends towards the applicability of broad criteria of assessment.

54. At its forty-sixth session in March 1995, the Committee considered the question of the nature of the right to self-determination of ethnic or religious groups or minorities. During the discussion, the view was expressed that Governments should, in accordance with article 2(2) of the Convention, be sensitive to the aspirations of ethnic groups, particularly their rights to lead lives of dignity, to preserve their cultures, to share equitably in the fruits of national growth and to play their part in the government of the countries of which their members are citizens. Governments should consider, within their respective constitutional frameworks, vesting ethnic or linguistic groups of their citizens, with the affairs which are particularly relevant to the preservation of the identities of such groups. The Committee expressed its opposition to the fragmentation of States and stressed the importance of adhering to the principles of international law concerning secession.

55. At its forty-sixth session in March 1995 and its forty-seventh session in August 1995, the Committee considered periodic reports submitted by States parties and made observations on the various measures undertaken by certain States with a view to the promotion of racial or ethnic tolerance among communities. Particular measures were referred to in the concluding observations with regard to the periodic reports of, among others, Belarus, Croatia, Guatemala, Italy, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Romania, Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates. The Committee adopted two decisions on Burundi 6(46) and 1(47), one on Rwanda 7(46), two on Papua New Guinea 8(46) and 3(47) and one on Bosnia and Herzegovina 2(47).

VI. SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS

56. In a number of cases, special rapporteurs appointed by United Nations human rights organs to investigate human rights situations in specific regions and countries and on thematic issues have addressed the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities within their mandates or have been confronted with violations of the rights of persons belonging to minorities.

57. The Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, Mr. Maurice Glèlè-Ahanhanzo, in his report to the Commission at its fifty-first session (E/CN.4/1995/78)

referred, inter alia, to minority situations and the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities in Australia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In his report on the mission he undertook to the United States of America (E/CN.4/1995/78/Add.1), "The Special Rapporteur found sociological inertia, structural obstacles and individual resistance hindering the emergence of an integrated society based on the equal dignity of the members of the American nation and willing to accept ethnic and cultural pluralism" (para. 112). In his conclusions and recommendations, he stressed that: "It should be recognized that when persons from ethnic minorities aspire to equal treatment, they are not asking for favours, but seeking to enjoy the rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution in their daily lives by virtue of their status as full citizens or lawful residents" (para. 112, rec. 2).

58. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, Mr. Tadeusz Mazowiecki, in his tenth periodic report (E/CN.4/1995/57, paras. 92-97), addressed the reported discrimination against the Bulgarian minority in Serbia in the areas of education, the media, and the maintenance of their own associations. He also addressed the issue of the treatment of Croatian nationals of Serbian origin. In his final periodic report (E/CN.4/1996/9), the Special Rapporteur described the situation of minorities living in various localities of the former Yugoslavia and made special reference to discrimination against minorities in the field of education. He noted that there are reports that education in the mother tongue of the minorities is being systematically eliminated and that the Bulgarian, Hungarian and Croat minorities face difficulties in maintaining an education system which is acceptable to their culture. The Special Rapporteur also mentioned that all minorities reportedly experience discrimination and violence against their cultural and religious institutions.

59. The Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Mr. Bacre Waly Ndiaye, in his report (E/CN.4/1995/61) mentioned that in a number of cases that had come before him in 1994, it was alleged that the victims subjected to death threats or extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions belonged to national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities. Such cases were said to have occurred in 19 countries.

60. The Special Rapporteur for the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination based on Religion or Belief in his report (E/CN.4/1995/91) referred to reports of discrimination against religious minorities. In his conclusions and recommendations, the Special Rapporteur once again deplored frequently serious infringements of the rights of persons belonging to religious minorities in countries with an official or clearly predominant majority religion.

VII. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

A. Council of Europe

61. In accordance with the declaration of the heads of State and Government of the member States of the Council of Europe adopted at a summit conference held on 8 and 9 October 1993, a framework convention specifying the principles which the contracting States committed themselves to respect in order to assure the protection of national minorities was drafted and adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 10 November 1994. The framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities was opened for signature on 1 February 1995 and has already been signed by the following States: Austria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; it has also been ratified by Romania. It is the first ever legally binding multilateral instrument protecting national minorities in general. The Convention contains provisions covering a wide range of areas: non-discrimination; promotion of effective equality; promotion of the conditions regarding the preservation and development of culture and the preservation of religion; language and traditions; freedoms of assembly, association, expression, thought, conscience and religion; access to and use of the media; linguistic freedoms; education; transfrontier contacts; international and transfrontier cooperation; participation in economic, cultural and social life; participation in public life; and the prohibition of forced assimilation. The adequacy of the measures taken by the parties to give effect to the principles are evaluated by the Committee of Ministers, assisted by an advisory committee, on the basis of periodic reports submitted by the States parties.

62. The Summit Conference also entrusted the Committee of Ministers to begin work on drafting an additional protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights in the cultural field containing provisions guaranteeing individual rights, in particular for persons belonging to national minorities. The drafting process of this additional protocol is to be completed by the end of 1995.

63. These instruments are a valuable supplement to the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Charter for regional or minority languages which was opened for signature by member States on 5 November 1992. The Charter, which will enter into force upon ratification by five member States, has, as at 1 June 1995, been ratified by Finland, Hungary and Norway and signed by Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland. The Charter lays down objectives and principles to be respected by States and proposes concrete measures to put them into effect in the fields of education, courts of law, administrative authorities and public services, the media, cultural facilities and economic and social life.

B. European Commission on Human Rights

64. It should be recalled that the European Convention on Human Rights does not lay down any specific minority rights. Important considerations in respect of the Convention include the following. Its text refers to "national minorities" only in article 14; non-discrimination can only be inferred with respect to any of the other articles of the Convention. Although "language" is one of the grounds on which discrimination is prohibited under article 14, the right to the use of a particular language in contacts with the authorities is not generally guaranteed. Article 25 recognizes the right of petition of "persons", "non-governmental organizations" and "groups of individuals"; with reference to the latter two categories, each member of the group must be affected by the alleged violation of the Convention. The possibility of complaining about the treatment of a minority as such exists in the context of an inter-State application under article 24 (e.g. Cyprus v. Turkey which concerned, inter alia, the treatment of the enclaved Greek Cypriot population in the north of Cyprus).

65. With reference to the case law dealing specifically with minority situations, the following may be mentioned:

(a) In a case concerning a linguistic census in Austria, in which the applicant claimed to belong to the Slovene minority although he did not use the Slovene language, the Commission considered that there was no violation of the Convention as the protection of individual members of a linguistic minority is limited to the right not to be discriminated against in the enjoyment of the rights contained in the Convention on the ground of belonging to the minority;

(b) In several cases the Commission denied that a right to "linguistic freedom" was enshrined in the Convention. In two cases concerning the use of the Slovene and the Flemish languages respectively in civil court procedures, the Commission considered it relevant that the legal provisions on court language were complied with and that the applicants had bilingual lawyers. Similarly, in a case concerning the refusal of a criminal court in France to hear witnesses in the Breton language, the Commission considered that there were no violations of article 6, paragraph 1, or of article 14, since the Convention did not guarantee the right of witnesses to speak in a language of their choice and the witnesses had not claimed that they were unable to speak French. In three other cases, the Commission considered that a right to "linguistic freedom" could not be derived from article 9 (freedom of thought and conscience) or article 10 (freedom of expression) as the applicants were not prevented from expressing their thoughts freely in the language of their choice. Concerning elections to legislative bodies established according to linguistic criteria, the Commission considered that non-representation of the minority constitutes a breach of article 3 of the First Protocol to the Convention, but the Court did not confirm this view. It held that the compulsion to vote for candidates who belong to either one or the other language group in the national parliamentary institutions and to the corresponding community council was not a disproportionate limitation on the free expression of the opinion of the people in the choice of the legislature;

(c) In areas not covered by the special provisions, the Convention organs have concluded a contrario that no right to the use of a particular language is guaranteed by the Convention to citizens in their contacts with the authorities for administrative proceedings in general, concerning the use of language in municipal councils and social service assistance centres, and concerning the language used for the registration of a minority party wishing to take part in elections;

(d) In a case concerning alleged discrimination of Lapps as a minority in Norway, the Commission again confirmed that the Convention does not guarantee specific rights to minorities. It observed that the applicants had the right to vote and stand for elections to the Norwegian Parliament but stressed that Lapps have no secured representation for themselves. In further cases concerning Lapps in Norway, the Commission recognized that a particular life-style of a minority is protected by article 8 as being "private life", "family life" or "home". The issue in this case was whether the construction of a hydroelectric power station interfered with the lives of fishermen and reindeer breeders. The Commission rejected the applicants' complaints under article 14 as there was no indication that they were treated in a manner which could be considered discrimination, nor had they been forced to abandon their life-styles. The same principle was subsequently repeatedly confirmed in cases concerning caravan sites for Gypsies. In most cases, the contested measures were found to be in conformity with the provision of article 8, paragraph 2. However, a breach of the Convention was for the first time established by the Commission in its report of 11 January 1995 on a case involving the United Kingdom which has recently been referred to the Court;

(e) The Commission also considered cases where a cultural identity is derived from the fact that the applicant belongs to a particular religious group. The Commission approached these on a case-by-case basis in respect of article 9, paragraph 2. An important distinction which is being made in this respect is whether a particular practice is an essential part of the manifestation of religion. Not every act influenced by a religion or belief is recognized as a "practice" within the meaning of article 9 and, accordingly, the protection of article 14 cannot be invoked. In a case in which the applicant had sought to bring criminal charges in the United Kingdom against the author and publisher of The Satanic Verses, the Court ruled that there was no protection of Muslims against blasphemy against their religion by a publication and that articles 9 and 14 were inapplicable. However, religious discrimination contrary to article 14 can be invoked where another Convention right is at issue. In another case involving Austria, the Court considered it as discriminatory, invoking article 14 in conjunction with article 8, in a child custody case to make a distinction between the parents on the ground of their religion, i.e the possible effects on the social life of the children concerned of their being associated with a particular religious minority (in this case, Jehovah's Witnesses). The Commission considered that it is incompatible with the concept of a pluralist society to assume that members of a minority group will automatically be socially marginalized;

(f) With regard to religious education, the Court in several cases determined that States are required to provide for exemptions for children who do not belong to the majority religion. The system of regulating access to

school according to linguistic criteria was, however, not found to be in breach of article 14. This was confirmed in a number of follow-up cases. The Commission also considered that the right claimed by the applicants to have the imprint of their own personality and of the culture they acknowledge as their own take first place among the factors conditioning the education of their children, in order that their children's thinking should not become alien to their own, was outside the scope of articles 9 and 10;

(g) The question of interference with the expression of a particular culture has hardly ever arisen in the Strasbourg case law. In the case of alleged discrimination against the Slovene minority in Austria by virtue of the failure to license a private radio station and an alleged insufficiency of programmes on the public broadcasting system, the Commission did not find elements of discrimination; the Court did not express an opinion;

(h) Several cases decided by the Commission concerned special protection of particular minorities under national law and resultant restrictions on the freedom of expression of persons not belonging to those minorities. The Commission considered such restrictions as being justified under article 10, paragraph 2, of the Convention. In the case of defamatory remarks made against Gypsies in Germany, the Commission found that there had been no interference with individual rights.

VIII. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

66. Caritas Internationalis mentioned that the situation of minority groups was of great concern to the organization, and some of Caritas's member organizations were very much involved in assisting such groups in defending the dignity of their members. The World Muslim Congress stated that, through their branches throughout the world, greater awareness about the rights of minorities was being promoted and the abolition of discriminatory laws called for.

IX. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

67. In view of the small number of replies received by the Centre for Human Rights and the lack of substantive information contained therein, it is difficult to arrive at conclusions of a general nature which accurately represent the measures taken to give effect to the Declaration by the international community as a whole. In particular, it seems that the replies focused mainly on the constitutional and legislative provisions protecting and promoting the rights of persons belonging to minorities, with many Governments listing relevant legislation at length. It would have been more useful for the purposes of this report if Governments had submitted substantive information on the actual measures taken to protect minorities, including any affirmative action undertaken to give effect to the Declaration. It should thus be underscored that what is needed is information about the practical implementation of the Declaration.

68. It would therefore seem indispensable for the preparation of future reports on the subject, and in order to provide a more accurate overview of the measures

taken to implement the principles contained in the Declaration, that a greater number of States submit relevant and complete information in response to the request of the Secretary-General.

69. Evidence that minority rights in general and their implementation in particular are vital issues is manifested in the consideration of those issues and related proposals made at the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. Those proposals, in particular the ones made by non-governmental organizations and included in the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the Subcommission at its forty-seventh session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/33, paras. 69-74), may be considered as conducive to furthering concrete measures to be taken by the relevant United Nations organs, organizations and bodies and by Governments themselves aimed at the promotion of the Declaration.

70. The Commission on Human Rights and subsequently the Economic and Social Council authorized the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to establish a working group on minorities with the mandate referred to above. It is hoped that the working group becomes a genuine forum for dialogue and mutual understanding between Governments and minorities and that possible solutions to minority problems will be found.

71. As the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights stated with reference to the role of the United Nations in situations where there is no declared conflict, the bodies set up under the United Nations international conventions relating to human rights all have an important role to play, which could in fact be strengthened in accordance with the spirit of the Declaration. The role of the High Commissioner is especially important in developing networks of cooperation with international and regional bodies on the issue of minority protection.

72. The High Commissioner will continue to pay particular attention, in his ongoing dialogue with Governments, to issues involving minorities. He will pursue the task entrusted to him to provide, through the Centre for Human Rights and other appropriate institutions, programmes of technical assistance and advisory services and to promote activities in the field of information and education on issues concerning minorities.

73. UNESCO described the wide range of activities it is undertaking with respect to the protection of minorities, especially in the cultural field, which serve as a basis for further reflection and action. UNESCO recommended, in particular, that the ongoing dialogue between minorities and Governments be encouraged, that the recommendations contained in the report of Mr. Asbjørn Eide and the text of the Declaration be widely disseminated, and that all relevant issues concerning minorities be incorporated into the United Nations procedures and mechanisms.

74. With reference to the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, it is important to stress that countries should continue to include in their periodic reports measures taken with regard to the protection and promotion of the rights of minorities, with particular reference to article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political

Rights and General Comment No. 23 of the Committee on article 27, and the relevant provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

75. The information provided by special rapporteurs illustrates the vulnerability of minority groups and the urgent need for every United Nations body to focus its attention on the treatment accorded to these groups within the framework of its respective mandate.

76. Coordination of the activities of the organs and organizations of the United Nations system should be further encouraged and properly financed as recommended to the Secretary-General by the World Conference on Human Rights. Given the recommendations of the World Conference, high-level officials of the relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies should, at their annual meetings, assess the impact of their strategies and policies on the enjoyment of all human rights, and it would seem desirable and appropriate that those officials consider coordination between their programmes aimed at the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Those organs and organizations, in particular ILO, UNHCR, UNESCO and UNICEF, should be encouraged to submit information on the subject regularly.

77. The activities of the Council of Europe ideally complement, on a regional basis, those of the United Nations in the field of minority protection. It would be important that such regional arrangements be adopted by other regional organizations as well, as they can in certain circumstances provide a more appropriate regional focus to the solution of minority problems. Ongoing cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations on the issue of minority protection is of particular importance.

78. A greater number of non-governmental organizations could submit information about their activities contributing to the application and realization of the Declaration and assist in the efforts at the international and national levels to achieve positive results in regard to the protection of minorities that may or may not be covered by United Nations instruments.